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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and technique for authenticating a user submitting a service request from a client computer to a server computer executing a distributed application on a

5   plurality of data processing agents. The server computer includes a plurality of data processing agents including a plurality of service agents and a manager agent, which manages tasks related to user authentication. A first service agent receives a service request from a user, and

10   submits an authentication request to the manager agent to authenticate the user. In the event that the manager agent successfully authenticates the user, the manager agent transmits a message to the first service agent including valid user authentication information, and stores a time-out

15   value indicative of a predetermined time period for that user. The first service agent receives the valid user authentication information, stores it, and shares it with the distributed application executing thereon, which provides the requested service to the user. The manager

20   agent determines whether the predetermined time period has been exceeded starting from the time of receipt of the service request. If that time period has not been exceeded before another service request is received at the first service agent, then the first service agent attempts to

25   authenticate the user using the stored authentication information. Otherwise, the first service agent submits another authentication request to the manager agent to authenticate the user.

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